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TRADE UNIONS HOLD CONGRESSES

LATVIAN TRADE-UNION CONGRESS MEETS -- Sovetskaya Latvija, No 62, 16 Mar 49

The Second Republic Interunion Congress of Latvian Trade Unions opened 15 March 1949 in Riga. Vol'tman, chairman of the Latvian Republic Council of Trade Unions presided. In a report to the congress, Vol'tman criticized the textile industry, the Ministry of Light and Local Industry, and the Party organizations of these industries for the low level and general poor quality of their production.

As of 1 January 1949, there were 22 republic trade-union organizations; 222 municipal, uyezd, rayon, and group committees; 2,724 factory-plant and local committees; and 2,155 trade union groups. Trade union organizations have as members 88.4 percent of Latvian workers, or about 100,000 persons.

During 1948, 14,506 persons studies in Stakhanovite schools.

MARITIME UNION MEETS IN Leningrad -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 57,
10 Mar 49

The Fourth Congress of Maritime Transport Workers' Trade Union opened in Leningrad on 9 March, and was attended by delegates from many parts of the USSR.

Budanov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Trade Union, gave the opening report. He stated that maritime transport had gained notable success during the years of the Postwar Five-Year Plan. Socialist competition has greatly expanded and over 94 percent of all maritime transport workers now participate in it. The achievement of I. Ielsho, crane operator at the Leningrad port, who fulfilled nine year quotas is receiving extensive publicity.

During 1948, seamen saved 80 million rubles above the plan. The budget of the trade union increased 22 million rubles.

The Congress will continue for 3 days. Bayev and Verbitakiy, Vice-Ministers of the Maritime Fleet, are taking part in the meetings.

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